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The Open Transportation Journal is an Open Access online journal, which publishes research articles, reviews, letters and guest edited single topic issues in the field of design and/or analysis of transportation systems. Areas that are covered include: traffic modeling, transportation networks, optimization, queuing, control, statistical and other models of transportation systems, cost models and other works aiming at providing the most complete and reliable source of information on current developments in the field.

THEMATIC ISSUE

High Speed Rail Transport: Implications in relation to the type of Cities/Territories

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High-Speed Rail (HSR) has generated abundant debates given its implications for transport and cities. These debates started before it was first introduced but diminished significantly once it became integrated into everyday life. This special issue seeks to add to this debate some 50 years after HSR services began in Japan.

Apart from technical aspects relating to its infrastructure, telecommunications, security procedures and rolling stock, there are six major socio-economic, transportation and spatial planning issues associated with HSR that have been subjects of debate: the actual process of travelling, connecting territories/economies previously difficult to interconnect, facilitating and catalysing spatial impacts, energy and pollutants emissions, capacity to harness the use of technology and whether all of these issues can be combined to make investment in HSR socially and economically profitable.

This special issue contains eleven European and Japanese contributions and examines whether improvements in transportation have been the main driving forces behind some recent urban developments. Predicting the expected passenger demand and maintaining the current dynamics (whether of growth or decline) are not very difficult; what is much more difficult is to forecast the creation of new economic and/or social activities and the number of new passengers that they are expected to generate.